rules and conventions;

(b) whether DGCA has made any effort to ensure that airlines are not harassing passengers by over-crowding and bunching of seats;

(c) the steps DGCA has taken so far to direct all airlines to leave sufficient leg-room in all domestic flights; and

(d) the details of any positive steps taken by DGCA in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Seating arrangements in Airlines aircraft are made in accordance with layout plan as approved by the State of Design of the aircraft and conforms to internationally acceptable airworthiness code. The seating capacity is approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and indicated on the airlines operating permit.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Price of aviation turbine fuel

153. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have negotiated with PSU oil companies to lower the price of aviation fuel supplied to airlines flying in India;

(b) if so, the details and outcome of these discussions;

(c) by what date the "Base Price" of aviation fuel will be reduced;

(d) if not, whether Government will seek other alternatives to get aviation fuel at lower prices from non-PSU oil companies; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) This Ministry has taken up the issue of high margins of Oil companies in the selling price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). However the Government does not have any administrative pricing mechanism in respect of ATF and Oil companies are free to fix prices based on market forces.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of above.